

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FOI/PA# 1358611-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 123
Page 34 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 35 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 39 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 40 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 84 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 85 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 104 ~ Duplicate;
Page 105 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 162 ~ Duplicate;
Page 165 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 166 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 169 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;

Page 181 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 184 ~ Duplicate;
Page 185 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 239 ~ Duplicate;
Page 245 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 256 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 258 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 261 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 262 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 263 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 264 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 265 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 269 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 270 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 271 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 280 ~ Duplicate;
Page 281 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 301 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 330 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 336 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 343 ~ Duplicate;
Page 345 ~ Duplicate;
Page 346 ~ Duplicate;
Page 364 ~ Duplicate;
Page 365 ~ Duplicate;
Page 366 ~ Duplicate;
Page 369 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 370 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 371 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

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8/29/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LAS VEGAS (166-NEW) (P)
UNSUBS (3);
EDWARD MIKE DAVIS, aka
Mike Davis -
VICTIM
ITAR - EXTORTION
OO: Las Vegas

At approximately 10:00 p.m., 8/27/69, Chief of Police N. D. WITCHER, Las Vegas PD, advised SAC, Las Vegas, that he had just been in touch with victim and had learned of an extortion attempt in existence against victim.

As a matter of background, EDWARD MIKE DAVIS is the sole owner of Tiger Oil Company of Denver as well as various other subsidiary organizations. He is a millionaire and one of the largest independent oil drillers in the U. S. He has long been well known to the Denver and Las Vegas Offices and for years he has periodically visited Las Vegas casinos reportedly losing large sums of money. DAVIS is a former chauffeur who married HELEN BONFILS, widow of the founder of the "Denver Post" newspaper.

DAVIS has for the last several years lived

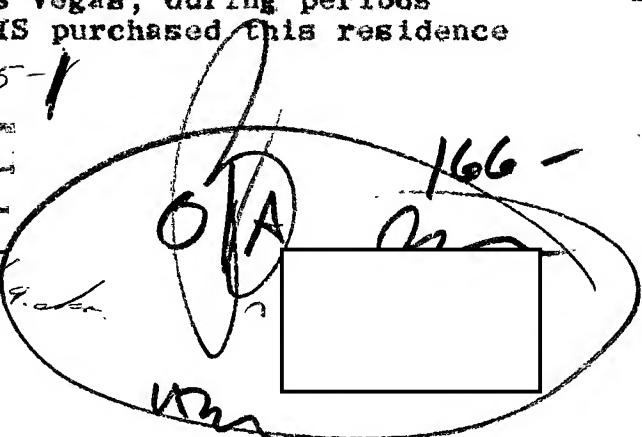
[redacted] Las Vegas, during periods of his visits to Las Vegas. DAVIS purchased this residence

2-Bureau
2-Denver
2-Las Vegas
JED/sko

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LV 166-NEW

[redacted] and it is estimated that the property represents an investment of between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

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DAVIS was interviewed on the night of 8/27/69 at [redacted] by Chief of Police WITCHER, SACHAROLD E. CAMPBELL, JR., and SA M. B. PARKER and furnished the following information:

Approximately 3 to 4 months ago, a male individual, not further described, appeared at the guest house and asked for MIKE DAVIS. He was informed by [redacted]

[redacted] WILLIAM POWERS, a retired Denver police officer in charge of security at the residence, that he should contact DAVIS at the "main house." No information available that this individual attempted to contact anyone at the main house at that time. About 4 to 6 weeks later, an unidentified individual appeared at the service entrance of main house and rang service bell. WILLIAM POWERS answered door, at which time a white male individual, described 5'9" to 5'10", 165 to 170 lbs., 50 to 55 years of age, sharp features, clean shaven but has gray-blue type beard, full head of dark graying hair, somewhat long sideburns and possibly Italian origin, asked for MIKE DAVIS. When informed by POWERS that DAVIS was not available, the individual handed a sealed envelope to POWERS with instructions to deliver same personally and promptly to DAVIS. POWERS recalled and reported to DAVIS that he had noticed two male individuals waiting for the person who delivered the envelope sitting in a car on the street by the front drive. He described the automobile as being a 1966 or 1967 creme colored 4-door Cadillac, license tag not observed.

The envelope was plain white and marked only "MIKE DAVIS Private." DAVIS opened the envelope and observed the following letter inside, typewritten on a half sheet of white bond paper. Envelope and letter being forwarded to FBI Laboratory for examination by separate communication.

LV 166-NEW

"Mike Davis,

"I wont go into much detail, but Uncle Sam has all are bank accounts tied up, and several of are men are coming up for court hearings, and bail. So just say I am going to sell you some security, and protection.

"We want you to dome \$50,000.00 in cash dont use anything over a 100.00 bill, we will forget our differences, and be friends.

"Be sure to keep this to yourself, and dont even tell [redacted]

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"Deliver the money by telling your man Powers Ex-Cop from Denver, to start from your house at 1 P.M. on this coming Wed. drive straight out north Rancho Rd. and then north on Thonaph Highway. Dont send anyone with him, because if he isnt alone we wont contact him. After he is contacted he can return unmolested, in about 2 hours."

DAVIS believes letter was delivered on Saturday, specific date not recalled, but believed June 17, 1969. Inasmuch as it was non-specific regarding date of delivery of money, DAVIS took no action and notified no one except [redacted].

DAVIS advised that on the following Wednesday at approximately 11:00 p.m. he received a telephone call from a male individual asking for MIKE DAVIS. The individual, who spoke with a definite southern accent and appeared to be somewhat uneducated, refused to identify himself to DAVIS. Unsub told DAVIS that if money was not delivered in accordance with instructions, someone would be killed. He advised DAVIS that the payoff should be made on that date, however, DAVIS refused to accede to the instructions and hung up on the calling individual.

LV 166-NEW

DAVIS states that he is vague regarding further calls but believes he has received approximately 8 to 10 calls from above-mentioned individual; however, he has refused to make any arrangements for payment and states that in almost every instance threats were made by caller that either he or someone else would be killed if DAVIS did not meet demands in note.

DAVIS stated he received a call in the latter part of June from one of the two individuals with whom he had previously talked in this matter. During this call he stated that in clear and profane terms he told this individual he would not comply with the extortion request under any conditions. He then hung up. Within the next hour DAVIS received another call from a white male, whom he described as extremely well spoken and obviously the "brains of the outfit." He was unable to identify him with any regional accent. This individual told DAVIS that he would either go along with the demand which had been made or "someone would get hurt." When DAVIS told this individual that he was firm in his position that he would not meet their demands, the man concluded the conversation by saying, "We'll be in touch with you around the first of September."

DAVIS indicated that to his recollection all of the calls have been received sometime between 10:30 AM and 12:00 noon, and he has the firm impression that many, if not all, of them were from out of state. He was unable to give any specific basis for this conclusion. He pointed out that from the tenor of the entire situation he has the impression that the scheme to extort money from him probably originated in or around Denver, Colorado, where he is well known and where his business headquarters is established. He remained adamant that he feels the telephone calls are interstate rather than local.

No calls were received by DAVIS in this matter from approximately the end of June until approximately 8/20 to 23/69, at which time several calls were received at the Las Vegas residence from unknown white males. In each instance the calling individual asked for MIKE DAVIS or when some other individual answered the phone said nothing.

LV 166-NEW

DAVIS states that he personally received one of the calls, at which time he was convinced that the individual calling was one of the same individuals he had previously talked with in this matter. [redacted] confirmed this, pointing out that she had listened in on this latter conversation on an extension telephone and recognized the voice. Most of the calls which have been received when the phone was answered by some person in the household other than MIKE DAVIS, the line remained open but absolutely no conversation took place. Inasmuch as DAVIS is in and out of town very frequently and under normal conditions usually spends only two to four days a week at this residence, many of the calls in the last week and previously have been received during his absence from town or from the residence.

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DAVIS states that all the telephone numbers in the residence are unlisted and there are actually five incoming lines. The number used in each instance by Unsub is [redacted].

DAVIS stated that he would furnish his full cooperation in this matter, as would [redacted] who was present during pertinent portions of interview, who added that she would cooperate in any way possible.

Appropriate investigation being conducted and coverage will be afforded in the event Unsubs again make contact with victim. DAVIS departing in his private plane today for Houston by way of Denver, with return date to Las Vegas uncertain.

Information copies being furnished to Denver.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum